

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, OECD
SUBJECT: AD HOC GROUP ON THE PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY,
APRIL 25, 1978

REF: OECD DOCUMENT DSTI/IND/78.32

SUMMARY - WORKING GROUP ON PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY
CONVENED ON APRIL 25 TO GO OVER SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT
ON INDUSTRY WHICH HAD BEEN MANDATED LAST FALL. LITTLE
WAS ACCOMPLISHED AT MEETING ITSELF BECAUSE DOCUMENT
WAS LATE AND MOST COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED BY
PERMANENT DELEGATIONS.
ACTION REQUESTED: THAT WASHINGTON CAREFULLY REVIEW
REFERENCED DOCUMENT AND SUBMIT COMMENTS/CORRECTIONS
BY COB MAY 20. WORKING GROUP WILL MEET AGAIN IN SEP-
TEMBER, 1978. END SUMMARY

1. BECAUSE OF LATENESS IN DISTRIBUTING DRAFT REPORT ON
THE PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY, EXCEPT FOR SWEDEN, AND TO
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LESSER EXTENT AUSTRALIA, MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC GROUP
COULD ONLY GIVE PRELIMINARY REACTIONS. THIS REPORT IS
BASED ON CURRENT DATA FURNISHED BY GOVERNMENTS AND FORE-
CAST AND/OR ESTIMATES TO 1980-1985 GLEANED BY THE
SECRETARIAT FROM PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SOURCES.
ALTHOUGH WG CHAIRMAN SMITH OF UK DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY
PRAISED QUALITY OF THE REPORT, VIRTUALLY ALL DEIS

INCLUDING U.S. SAID IT REQUIRES FURTHER EXAMINATION BY CAPITALS REGARDING ITS IMPLICATIONS.

2. THE DRAFT REPORT'S THREE CHAPTERS COVER: (A) PRODUCTION, DEMAND AND CAPACITY FOR FOUR BASIC IC PETROCHEMICALS (ETHYLENE, PROPYLENE, BUTADIENE, BENZENE) (B) FEEDSTOCK REQUIREMENTS AND (C) INVESTMENT IMPLICATIONS. A STATISTICAL ANNEX IS ALSO INCLUDED. WHILE THIS DISCUSSION, ATTENDED PART-TIME BY AN IEA REPRESENTATIVE, WILL ASSIST THE SECRETARIAT'S REDRAFTING, MISSION REQUESTS THAT WASHINGTON REVIEW THE REPORT TO INSURE THAT FACTUAL DATA (AND FORECASTS) ARE ACCURATE.

3. THE SECRETARIAT WILL PREPARE AN INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER TO EXPLAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS INDUSTRY, REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE FOUR BASIC PETROCHEMICALS, AND OUTLINE RATIONALE FOR CHOOSING THE HYPOTHESES ADOPTED IN ITS DRAFTING. ANOTHER SECTION WILL BE PREPARED ON DEVELOPMENTS IN NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES. THE NEW CHAPTER WILL COVER, INTER-ALIA, EMPLOYMENT AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IMPLICATIONS FOR PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT. A CONCLUDING CHAPTER WILL FOCUS ON POLICY ISSUES FOR GOVERNMENTAL REFLECTION, AND WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE NEXT WP MEETING IN SEPTEMBER 1978.

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4. TIME-TABLE: GOVERNMENTS' COMMENTS, MAY 30, 1978
(SEE PARA 2 ABOVE)
- SECOND DRAFT REPORT, JULY, 1978
- WP MEETING, SEPTEMBER, 1978
- SUBMISSION TO INDUSTRY COMMITTEE
FOR APPROVAL, NOVEMBER, 1978.

5. ONLY THE UK, GERMANY, NORWAY WERE REPRESENTED BY DELS FROM CAPITALS. THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS (AUSTRALIA, JAPAN, SWEDEN AND U.S.) WERE REPRESENTED BY MEMBERS OF PERMANENT DELEGATIONS.
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Message Attributes

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